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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

IN RE: DA VINCI SURGICAL ROBOTS ANTITRUST LITIGATION	Lead Case No. 3:21-CV-03825-VC
THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: ALL CASES	Honorable Vince Chhabria
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SERVICE COMPANY, INC., Plaintiff, vs. INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC., Defendant.	Case No. 3:21-cv-03496-VC Honorable Vince Chhabria

**JOINT STIPULATION AND ~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER
REGARDING DEPOSITION PROTOCOL**

WHEREAS, fact discovery closes in both above-captioned matters (the “N.D. Cal. Cases”) on November 10, 2022. *See* ECF No. 88.

WHEREAS, Plaintiffs Larkin Community Hospital, Franciscan Alliance, Inc., and King County Public Hospital District No. 1 (the “Hospital Plaintiffs”), Plaintiff Surgical Instrument Service Company, Inc. (“SIS”), and Defendant Intuitive Surgical, Inc. (“Intuitive”) have engaged in discussions to facilitate an orderly process to take depositions in this matter prior to the discovery deadline.

WHEREAS, the parties have already begun scheduling depositions to ensure discovery can be complete by the November 10, 2022 deadline.

WHEREAS, the Hospital Plaintiffs, SIS, and Intuitive have collectively disclosed, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)(i), more than 50 individuals who are likely to have discoverable information that the parties may use to support their claims or defenses.

NOW THEREFORE, to ensure that the parties can efficiently and effectively coordinate taking depositions in the above-captions actions, the Hospital Plaintiffs, SIS, and Intuitive propose that the below protocol govern depositions.

I. General Provisions

A. Scope and Application

1. For purposes of this protocol, the N.D. Cal. Cases will be treated as a single case, and, unless otherwise stated herein or agreed by the parties, all limits set out herein shall apply to the two cases collectively.
2. Other than the Remote Deposition Protocol (*see* Section IV below), this protocol does not apply to depositions of expert witnesses.
3. All parties must comply with Local Rule 30.1.
4. All parties may use depositions taken in *Restore Robotics LLC v. Intuitive Surgical, Inc.*, No. 5:19-cv-55-TKW-MJF (N.D. Fla.) and *Rebotix Repair LLC v. Intuitive Surgical, Inc.*, No. 8:20-cv-02274-VMC-TGW (M.D. Fla.) as if they were taken in the N.D. Cal. Cases.

5. Witnesses affiliated with Intuitive who were deposed in *Restore* or *Rebotix* will not be deposed in the N.D. Cal. Cases unless the noticing party demonstrates a good-faith need for a second deposition, except that Plaintiffs as of right may take Rule 30(b)(1) depositions of four Intuitive-affiliated witnesses who were previously deposed in *Restore* or *Rebotix*.

II. 30(b)(6) Depositions

- A. Each party will be subject to no more than a single 30(b)(6) notice.
- B. Each party will be subject to no more than 10 hours of questioning on a 30(b)(6) notice. This limit will not be affected by the number of witnesses presented in response to the notice.

III. Deposition Limits

- A. Each witness will be deposed only once in their individual capacity (exclusive of depositions taken in the *Rebotix* and/or *Restore* cases), with all parties being given notice of a deposition. The parties will make good-faith efforts to consolidate 30(b)(1) and 30(b)(6) depositions of a witness who has been noticed in their individual capacity and designated as a 30(b)(6) representative, to prevent any witness from appearing twice.
- B. Each side (i.e., hospital plaintiffs and SIS on the one hand, and Intuitive on the other) will be limited to 115 hours and 24 witnesses to use for all non-expert depositions.
 1. Each side can use its allotted 115 hours as it wishes, but each witness will count as at least 1 hour, no one witness shall be deposed for more than 7 hours.
 2. Time spent deposing Rule 30(b)(6) witnesses will count toward the hours limit and shall count as 1 deposition, regardless of the number of witnesses tendered or the time spent deposing.
 3. Except for the 4 depositions Plaintiffs may take as of right under the second clause in ¶ I.A.5. above, all parties reserve their rights to object in good faith to any particular deposition based on burden or any other grounds.
- C. To the extent any party submits a declaration in support of or in opposition to any summary judgment, class certification, or other dispositive motion in the N.D. Cal. Cases, the opposing party or parties to that motion shall have the right to depose that declarant without having the deposition count against either the hours cap or the deposition cap. The parties will negotiate in good faith the length of any such deposition in light of the scope and materiality of the declaration. Such deposition can occur after the close of fact discovery, but shall not impact the

schedule of the associated motion. The opposing party shall have three business days from the filing of the motion or opposition to inform the filing party that they wish to depose the declarant. If the declarant has already been deposed, the parties will meet in good faith to determine whether another deposition is warranted.

- D. To the extent any party lists on its trial witness list an individual who has not previously been deposed, the opposing party or parties shall have the right to depose that witness without having the deposition count against either the hours cap or the deposition cap. The parties will negotiate in good faith the length of any such deposition. Such deposition can occur after the close of fact discovery, but shall not impact the trial date. The opposing party shall have three business days from exchange of the parties' trial witness lists to inform the filing party that they wish to depose the witness.

IV. Remote Deposition Protocol

- A. Unless otherwise agreed by all parties, and as applicable, any non-party deponent, all depositions in this action shall be conducted remotely using videoconference technology, and the video feed of the deponent at each deposition shall be video-recorded. The parties agree to negotiate in good faith about conducting certain depositions in person.
- B. Any person who is present in the room where the deponent is located shall state his or her appearance for the record and be visible at all times to those participating in the deposition remotely. If one or more other individuals is present in the room with the deponent, a camera or cameras will be set up to capture those additional individuals. One camera will be focused solely on the deponent.
- C. The party that notices a deposition ("Noticing Party") shall be responsible for engaging a service provider to provide court reporting, videoconference and remote deposition services for all remote depositions (the "Service Provider"), and shall be responsible for procuring a written transcript and video record of the remote deposition. The costs associated with the use of the Service Provider and its platform shall be the responsibility of the Noticing Party. The parties shall bear their own costs in obtaining a transcript and/or video record of the deposition.
- D. For any non-party witness, the Noticing Party shall serve a copy of this Remote Deposition Protocol with the deposition subpoena.
- E. The Noticing Party shall provide the Service Provider with a copy of this Remote Deposition Protocol at least forty-eight hours in advance of the deposition.
- F. The parties agree that video-recorded remote depositions taken pursuant to this stipulation may be used at a trial or hearing to the same extent that an in-person deposition may be used at a trial or hearing, and the parties agree not to object to

the use of these video recordings on the basis that the deposition was taken remotely. The parties reserve all other objections to the use of any deposition testimony at trial.

- G. The parties agree that each deponent in a remote deposition shall be video recorded. The Service Provider shall capture an audio record of on-record statements made by all individuals who attend the deposition. In addition, all individuals who attend the deposition should strive to ensure that their environment is free from noise and distractions when they are on video or their microphone is unmuted.
- H. While on the record, no counsel shall initiate a private conference, including through text message, electronic mail, or the chat feature in the videoconferencing system, with any deponent.
- I. During breaks in the deposition, the parties may use the breakout room feature provided by the Service Provider, if available, which simulates a live breakout room through videoconference. Conversations in the breakout rooms shall not be recorded. The breakout rooms shall be established by the Service Provider before the deposition and controlled by the Service Provider.
- J. Remote depositions shall be recorded by stenographic means consistent with the requirements of Rule 30(b)(3), but given the COVID-19 pandemic, the court reporter need not be physically present with the witness whose deposition is being taken. The parties agree not to challenge the validity of any oath administered by the court reporter, even if the court reporter is not a notary public in the state where the deponent resides.
- K. The court reporter will stenographically record the testimony, and the court reporter's transcript shall constitute the official record. The Service Provider will record the video feed of the deponent and preserve the video recording. The court reporter may be given a copy of the video recording (of any videotaped deposition) and may review the video recording to improve the accuracy of any written transcript.
- L. The parties agree that the court reporter is an "Officer" as defined by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 28(a)(2) and shall be permitted to administer the oath to the witness via videoconference.
- M. At the beginning of each deposition, consistent with Rule 30(b)(5)(A) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the employee of the Service Provider responsible for video-recording the deposition shall begin the deposition with an on-the-record statement that includes: (i) the officer's name and company affiliation; (ii) the date and time, and place of the deposition (which shall be defined as the location of the deponent); (iii) the deponent's name; (iv) the officer's administration of the oath or affirmation; and (v) a statement that the

identity of all persons present at the remote deposition will appear in the stenographic record.

- N. At least three business days prior to the commencement of each deposition, the counsel noticing the deposition shall provide, or cause the Service Provider to provide, all counsel the details necessary to gain access to each remote deposition, including but not limited to any web addresses, login credentials, and hardware and software requirements.
- O. At least two business days prior to the commencement of each deposition, the participants shall access the remote deposition video and exhibit platform(s), and ensure that the platform(s) and all participants' hardware, software, and internet connections are functioning properly. The parties agree to work collaboratively and in good faith with the Service Provider to assess each deponent's technological abilities and to troubleshoot any issues at least two business days in advance of the deposition so any adjustments can be made.
- P. The parties also agree to work collaboratively to address and troubleshoot technological (including audio or video) issues that arise during a deposition and make such provisions as are reasonable under the circumstances to address such issues. This provision shall not be interpreted to compel any party to proceed with a deposition where the deponent cannot hear or understand the other participants or where the participants cannot hear or understand the deponent or each other. To the extent a deposition needs to be adjourned due to technical problems that cannot be resolved within an hour, the parties shall resume the deposition at the earliest feasible date and time.
- Q. Any time spent addressing technical issues will count as "off the record" time and shall not count against any time limit, provided that and starting when a questioning attorney or defending attorney specifies it is "off the record." If a technical issue prevents the deponent, questioning attorney, or defending attorney from speaking to or hearing other participants, the deposition shall be deemed "off the record" from that time.
- R. Every deponent shall endeavor to have technology sufficient to appear for a videoconference deposition (e.g., a laptop or desktop computer, or other suitable device with internet, webcam, and microphone capabilities), and bandwidth sufficient to sustain the remote deposition. At least seven days prior to the remote deposition, the defending attorney shall consult with the deponent and confirm whether the deponent has access to the required technology. If not, the defending attorney shall endeavor to supply it prior to the deposition. Other than the deposition computer used by the witness to carry out the deposition, and any telephone line used for the same purpose, such witness shall not access any network or cellular connected device, such as mobile phones or tablets, during the deposition, except during designated breaks.

- S. Participants shall take care to minimize background noise during the deposition. Participants other than the deponent, the questioning attorney, and the defending attorney shall place their microphones on mute except during times that they desire to speak on the record. Participants shall make best efforts to refrain from speaking at the same time as other Participants. The deponent, the questioning attorney, and the defending attorney shall keep their cameras turned on while the deposition is being conducted. All other participants shall keep their cameras off at all times, except as otherwise directed by the court reporter.
- T. The parties agree that any of the following methods for administering exhibits may be employed during a remote deposition, or a combination of one or more methods:
 - 1. Counsel noticing the deposition may mail or courier hard copies of documents that may be used during the deposition to the deponent and the defending attorney. Noticing counsel shall inform the defending attorney prior to mailing the documents and shall provide tracking information for the package. Such documents shall be delivered by 2:00 pm (local time for the witness) the business day before the deposition, unless otherwise agreed. The defending attorney shall confirm receipt of the package by electronic mail to counsel noticing the deposition. Every recipient of a mailed package shall keep the package sealed until the deposition begins and shall only unseal the package when instructed by counsel taking the deposition. In addition, neither the witness, the defending attorney, nor anyone acting at the direction of any attorney, shall review any hard-copy documents received in advance of counsel taking the deposition directing the witness to look at the document. This same procedure shall apply to any hard copies of documents any other counsel intends to use for examining the witness. Copies of the exhibits shall be provided to all the other deposition attendees by one of the electronic methods described in subparagraphs (2) and (3) below. Counsel noticing the deposition will advise the parties at the time the deposition is noticed the method that the court reporter or court reporting service will use to identify and track the official versions of the exhibits. The box shall include a prepaid shipping label to return the documents to the questioning attorney. Following the completion of the deposition the witness will secure any hard-copy exhibits in an envelope or box immediately following the deposition and will not alter any exhibit (mark up, remove pages, etc.) after the conclusion of the deposition. Counsel for the witness will arrange for the exhibits to be destroyed or returned to questioning attorney. If hard copies of documents are used, deposing counsel retains the right to use additional electronic exhibits not included with the hard-copy exhibits, including Excel documents or other file types such as video or audio files that cannot be easily printed. There may also occasionally be last-minute deposition exhibits which are not able to be provided to the witness or

defendant counsel in advance. The use of such last-minute exhibits should be the exception, not the rule.

2. Counsel noticing the deposition may choose to send a compressed .zip file of the documents that may be used during the deposition via electronic mail to the deponent, the defending attorney and the court reporter. The .zip file shall be delivered by 11:00 pm ET the business day before the deposition. The defending attorney and the court reporter shall confirm receipt of the .zip file by electronic mail to counsel noticing the deposition. The .zip file shall be password protected, and counsel taking the deposition shall supply the password via electronic email immediately prior to the commencement of the deposition. Every recipient of a .zip file shall not open (a) the .zip file, and (b) any specific document within the .zip file until specifically directed to do so by the counsel taking the deposition.
 3. Counsel may choose to display or send exhibits electronically to the deponent, the defending attorney and the court reporter during the deposition, by (a) using document-sharing technology and/or (b) sending the exhibit while on the record via electronic mail. In any event, the method used to share documents must allow the deponent and counsel for all parties to review the exhibits independently and in their entirety during the course of the deposition.
 4. Regardless of the method(s) for administering exhibits selected by the questioning attorney, the witness may request to use hard copies of documents. The witness shall make that request at least seven calendar days before the scheduled date of the deposition by electronic mail to counsel noticing the deposition. In response to such a request, hard copies of documents that may be used during the deposition shall be sent to the deponent and the defending attorney pursuant to the procedure outlined above. However, deposing counsel retains the right to use additional electronic exhibits not included with the hard-copy exhibits, including Excel documents or other file types such as video or audio files that cannot be easily printed. There may also occasionally be last-minute deposition exhibits which are not able to be provided to the witness or defendant counsel in advance. The use of such last-minute exhibits should be the exception, not the rule.
- U. All parties stipulate that an objection by counsel for any Plaintiff shall be deemed an objection for all Plaintiffs.
- V. A remote deposition shall satisfy the parties' obligations to make the deponent available for deposition and the deponent's obligations to appear for a deposition to the same extent as if the deposition had been conducted in person.

W. The parties may modify these procedures by mutual agreement and reserve their rights to seek reasonable modifications of these procedures as appropriate in individual circumstances.

DATED: September 9, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

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Attorneys for Defendant INTUITIVE SURGICAL, INC.

~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER

It is hereby ordered that the above protocol shall govern depositions in these cases.

It is so ordered

Dated: September 14, 2022



Hon. Laurel Beeler
United States Magistrate Court Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Seth R. Gassman, hereby certify that I caused to be filed electronically a true and correct copy of the foregoing document via the Northern District of California's ECF on September 9, 2022.

/s/ Seth R. Gassman

Seth R. Gassman

FILER'S ATTESTATION

I, Seth R. Gassman, am the ECF User whose ID and password are being used to file this document. In compliance with Civil L.R. 5-1(h)(3), I hereby attest that all counsel listed above have concurred in this filing.

/s/ Seth R. Gassman

Seth R. Gassman